

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Restriction Requirement

Applicant affirms the election of Group I, consisting of claims 1-10 and claims 16-29, without traverse made during the telephone conversation with Mr. Robert Lord (Reg. No. 46,479) on September 16, 2004. Applicant acknowledges that claims 11-15 have been withdrawn from further prosecution. These claims will be cancelled in due course.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-10 and claims 16-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 16, 24, 25, and 29 are independent. Claims 11-15 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 6 and 20 have been cancelled in this reply. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 16, and 25.

Drawings

The Examiner has not formally accepted the drawings filed on May 31, 2001. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate whether the filed formal drawings are acceptable.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-10 and 16-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Number 5,873,096 (“Lim”), in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,751,659 (“Fenger”). Claim 6 and claim 20 have been cancelled and therefore the rejections to those claims are moot. Claims 1, 10, 16, 24, 25, and 29 have been amended to include the limitation, “wherein the replication agreement comprises a list of replicated attribute types held in an element.” Further claims 4 and 10 have been amended to include the limitation, “wherein the change type may be one from the group consisting of an add operation, a delete operation, a modify operation, and a moddn operation.” Support for these limitations may be found on page 17 paragraph [0067] of the instant specification. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts Fenger teaches connecting a client computer to the fractional replica wherein the client computer has knowledge of only the fractional replica. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Fenger only teaches selecting a subset of policies applicable to a particular target from a policy server (*see* Fenger column 3, lines 3-13). In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention allows a client computer to connect to a fractional replica (*see* instant specification page 17, paragraph [0066]). Further, Fenger does not teach a client computer that has

knowledge of only the fractional parts of data on the primary server. In contrast, the client computer in the claimed invention has knowledge of *only* the fractional replica and not of the data on the primary server (*see* instant specification page 17, paragraph [0066]).

The Examiner asserts that Fenger teaches a replication agreement that comprises a list of replicated attribute types held in an element. However, Fenger actually teaches a target information list that can be used to determine which subsets of a policy tree are associated with particular targets (*see* Fenger column 4 lines 52-60). Specifically, Fenger does not teach replicated attribute types held in an element as found in the present invention.

Further, the Examiner asserts that Lim teaches updating the fractional portion using a plurality of change types stored in a change record in a database. However, Lim teaches that the value to be entered in the database is compared with the value in the change log (*see* Lim column 8, lines 46-50). In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention uses a plurality of change types stored in a change record in a database. The change type may be an add operation, a delete operation, a modify operation, or a moddn operation. This differs from Lim because Lim compares the value to be entered into the database, whereas the present invention may choose a particular update algorithm based on a stated change type.

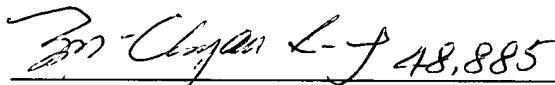
In view of the above, Lim and Fenger, whether considered separately or together, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the claims.

Thus, claims 1, 10, 16, 24, 25, and 29 are patentable over Lim and Fenger. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 13220.011001)

Respectfully submitted,

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